

The Absolutes of Love



You may have heard,
"You only get one chance to make
a first impression."

You should also hear,
"If you do not love first, you often will
not get the opportunity to love second."
-Ken Snell

*“You can’t get your
relationship with God right
if you get your
expression of Love wrong.”*



**I'VE LEARNED THAT
PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU SAID,
PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU DID, BUT
PEOPLE WILL NEVER
FORGET HOW YOU
MADE THEM FEEL.**

-Maya Angelou



Paul Pulls Out The Big Guns!

Always!

Never!

Greatest!

These are called, “Hyperbolic Absolutes”

We hear these “absolutes” with great regularity in our families, from our children our spouse and many other relationships.



I, You, We...Always

- I always have to go last!
- You always win!
- We always go to McDonalds!
- I always get blamed!
- You always make me so angry!
- We always eat at home!

I, You, We...“Never”

- I never get to do anything fun!
- You never listen to me!
- We will never surrender!
- I will never forgive you!
- You never admit you're wrong!
- We never talk anymore!

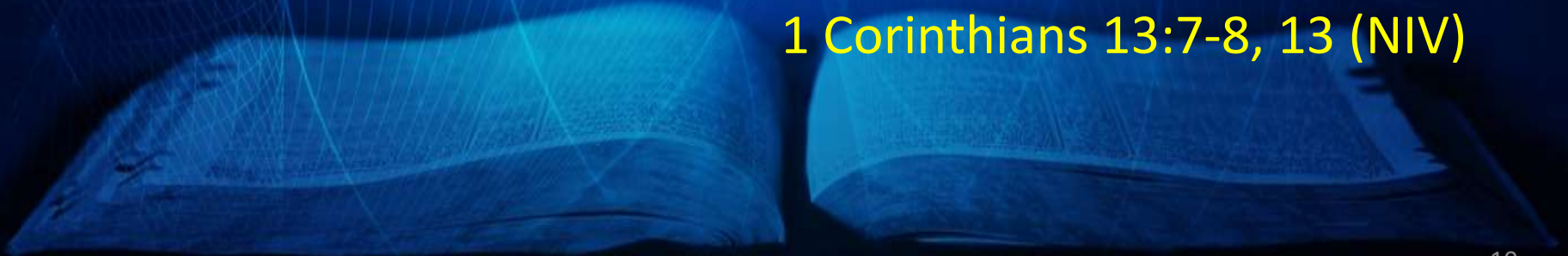
“The Greatest”

- He is the greatest singer ever!
- They were the greatest generation!
- “I am the greatest of all time!”
- That’s the greatest super bowl ever played!
- He was the greatest President we ever had!
- It’s the greatest show on earth!

Love is one of those “Absolutes.”

- “Always Endures”
- “Never Fails”
- “The Greatest of These Is Love.”


1 Corinthians 13:7-8, 13 (NIV)



1 Corinthians 13:7-13 (NIV)

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



Love Always
“Endures”
“to remain under”
“to stand firm”
“to stay behind”

Jesus Is Our Example Of Love That Endures.

Hebrews 12:1b-3 (NLT2)

...And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Love Never “Fails”

“to fall to ruin or destruction”

“done away with, come to an end”



Some Things Don't Last, Some Things Do!

- Prophecies – will cease
- Tongues – will be stilled
- Knowledge – will pass away
- Love – Never Dies

Love Is The Greatest Expression of Spirituality

Three things will last forever
—faith, hope, and love
—and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT2)

Embrace The “Love First” Creed (I Believe)

- I believe that God is love. 1 John 4:8
- I believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that the world may be saved through him. John 3:16
- I believe that God loved me when I was a powerless ungodly sinner and enemy. Romans 5:6
- I believe that the first and greatest command is to love God with all that I am. Mark 12:30

- I believe that with the first and greatest command, that I am to love my neighbor as myself. Mark 12:31
- I believe that I must love my enemies, the ungrateful, and the wicked. Matthew 5:44
- I believe that if I claim to love God and do not love others, I am a liar. 1 John 4:20
- I believe that when I see my brothers and sisters in need, I must help them with my material possessions, or the love of God is not in me. 1 John 3:17

Wise People Seldom Use...

- Always!
- Never!
- Greatest!

When used, they should mean something extraordinary.

A Prayer Base on Philippians 1:3-11

Dear Father, I'm thankful every time I think about my brothers and sisters in Christ. I find strength in the fact that my spiritual family believes and seeks to live by the message of your word.

Even in this present national crisis, there has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the work you have started in them will continue and flourish until Christ Jesus appears. Father, I know you are with us in this time of trial and we will come out of it stronger than we were.

Father, you know how much I love and miss this dear family. So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish in us and that we will not only love much, we will love well, and that from these messages we will grow in our love of you and others. Help us to make our love sincere, pure, and exemplary so Jesus will be proud of us. May our love make Jesus Christ attractive to other so you are glorified and praised.

In Jesus name, Amen.